

damaging effects of hatred and intolerance, ultimately achieving a brighter future for all.

Laura and I wish Muslims around the world a joyous Eid, and peace, health, and prosperity in the year ahead.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation 7514—Wright Brothers Day, 2001

December 13, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On December 17, 1903, from the dunes near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Orville Wright made the first manned flight in an engine-powered aircraft. Though the flight only covered 120 feet and lasted just 12 seconds, Orville and his brother Wilbur Wright changed history on that cold and gusty winter day.

Success had not come easily to the Wright brothers. Many thought powered flight impossible; and skeptics called the Wrights dreamers for even entertaining the idea. Undeterred, the Wrights spent years in study, analyzing the flight of birds and experimenting with model airplanes in their bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio. After many trials and errors, the Wright brothers finally achieved a controlled flight and opened the door to a new world.

On December 17 of each year, we honor the Wright brothers for their contributions to our Nation. Their invention of powered flight made the world community more connected. We have since traveled to the Moon and back, and space shuttles orbit our planet. All of these amazing advances can be traced back to that windy day at Kitty Hawk when the indomitable will of the Wrights persevered to triumph over the supposed impossible.

Air travel now is an essential part of this Nation's everyday life. This proud industry will endure through the new challenges presented by the tragedies of September 11.

Joining together as a Nation, we will continue to strengthen security while maintaining the economic and social benefits of an efficient air transportation system.

This Wright Brothers Day we salute all the scientific pioneers and visionaries who, despite the critics, have overcome seemingly insurmountable odds and made great advances for man. The Wright brothers' perseverance and creativity can serve as an inspiration for those inventors who will take us to new heights in the 21st century.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved December 17, 1963 (77 Stat. 402; 36 U.S.C. 143), has designated December 17 of each year as "Wright Brothers Day," and has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation inviting the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 17, 2001, as Wright Brothers Day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:38 a.m., December 14, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 17.

Remarks at a Holiday Reception for the Special Olympics

December 13, 2001

The President. Good evening. Good evening, everyone. Laura and I are so pleased to welcome you to the White House as we pay tribute to a great organization and the really good people behind it.

In a moment, we will hear from Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who has made the Special Olympics her life's work. If you ever had any

doubt about how much good that one person can bring into the world, look no farther than this kind and gracious lady. And she married pretty well, too. *[Laughter]* Sure glad you're here, Sargent. And they've done a good job of raising their family. We are so pleased to welcome the—I hate to say the word “children”—the offspring of Sargent and Eunice Shriver. Obviously, you've done a good job of instilling the sense of public service in your children, and they're compassionate people. I particularly want to thank Tim for being the president of Special Olympics.

With us as well is Eunice's little brother—well, younger brother—*[laughter]*—a man I have grown to admire as a fine United States Senator. And Orrin Hatch, another fine Senator, is here, as well. Thank you both for coming.

I appreciate my Commerce Secretary, Donny Evans, for being here, and I want to thank the Surgeon General, David Satcher, for coming, as well.

I also want to welcome the cochairs of the campaign for the Special Olympics, Steve Case and Peter Lynch, and all of those who support this fine organization. Thank you for coming tonight.

And the highest title of all is held by the King of the Blues, B.B. King. Thank you for coming.

We gather here to celebrate achievement of the Special Olympics, itself, and those who compete. Before we lived here, Laura and I were fortunate to be involved with the Special Olympics in Texas. And I'll never forget being a hugger at Texas Memorial Stadium—such a wonderful experience. We're so grateful for the Special Olympics.

And so is America, because America at its best upholds the values of every person and the possibilities of every life. And Special Olympics is an example of America at its best, sharing with the entire world a spirit of joy and kindness. The story of our country is an ever-widening circle, a society in which everyone has a place and everyone has something to give. You brought that spirit into the lives of more than a million children and adults across the world, and I thank you for that.

Most of all, I congratulate the global messengers and athletes with us this evening:

Cindy Bentley, Henry Moretti, Mohammad Nassar, Jia Sirui, Victor Stewart, Katy Wilson, Loretta Claiborne, and Ricardo Thornton. Each one of you has been recognized for giving your best, for sharing your many gifts with others, and for living out the Special Olympics oath: “Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.” Each one of you has set high goals, and you have met them through hard work and courage.

We are all so proud to have you with us tonight and ask all of our guests to join me in toasting the brave and generous spirit of the Special Olympics.

[At this point, the President offered a toast.]

The President. And now it is my honor to welcome Mrs. Eunice Shriver.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:47 p.m. on the State Floor at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder and honorary chairman, Sargent Shriver, chairman of the board, and their son Timothy P. Shriver, president and chief executive officer, Special Olympics; and Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

Executive Order 13239— Designation of Afghanistan and the Airspace Above as a Combat Zone December 12, 2001

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 112 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 112), I designate, for purposes of that section, Afghanistan, including the airspace above, as an area in which Armed Forces of the United States are and have been engaged in combat.

For purposes of this order, I designate September 19, 2001, as the date of the commencement of combatant activities in such zone.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 12, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:38 a.m., December 13, 2001]